



# Grants Pass Department of Public Safety

*"Keeping Grants Pass safe since 1887"*

## MEDIA RELEASE



**Nature:** Mountain Lion (Cougar) sighting

**Location:** Northwest and Southwest Grants Pass

**Date/Time:** June 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 7:00 PM and June 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 4:00 AM

**Completed by:** Lt. Todd Moran

**Approved:** Lt. Ward

### DETAILS:

On Wednesday, June 3rd, 2015 at approximately 7:00 PM a mountain lion was sighted in the area of NW Prospect Ave., near Gilbert Creek. The lion was seen in a resident's garden and later on the porch of a residence. The lion was last seen headed into the creek. Grants Pass Department of Public Safety police officers responded but were unable to locate the lion. Oregon State Police was notified about the sighting. At about 11:30 PM on the same date, the lion was believed to have been seen in the area of the Grower's Market parking lot at NW 4<sup>th</sup> and NW F St. This was an unconfirmed sighting as the witness said the animal looked like a bigger dog. Approximately four hours later, police officers on patrol confirmed the third sighting of the lion in the area of SW 4<sup>th</sup> and SW J St. The lion was last seen headed back into the Gilbert Creek in a northerly direction. The Oregon State Police was updated throughout the night of the new sightings.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Game advises in most cases sightings do not warrant a field response. According to the ODFW, it is rare to even see a mountain lion and that they rarely pose a threat to human safety. In some cases however, a single incident or a series of sightings and or incidents will indicate a pattern of behavior that is considered a concern for human safety. The most common indicator of human safety concern is repeated sightings in a populated area, especially in daytime. Here are some tips from ODF&W regarding mountain lion encounters;

- Cougars often will retreat if given the opportunity. Leave the animal a way to escape.
- Stay calm and stand your ground.
- Maintain direct eye contact.
- Pick up children, but do so without bending down or turning your back on the cougar.
- Back away slowly.
- Do not run. Running triggers a chase response in cougars, which could lead to an attack.
- Raise your voice and speak firmly.
- If the cougar seems aggressive, raise your arms to make yourself look larger and clap your hands.

Grants Pass Department of Public Safety ~ 101 NW "A" Street, Grants Pass Oregon 97526 ~ Phone 541-450-6260  
[www.grantspassoregon.gov](http://www.grantspassoregon.gov)

- If in the very unusual event that a cougar attacks you, fight back with rocks, sticks, tools or any items available.

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety reminds residents to call the general business number (541-450-6260) should you observe a mountain lion within the city of Grants Pass. If the sighting is emergent in nature 911 should be utilized.